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Garrison Pushes Claims In Slaying of Kennedy

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison, stepping up his attack on the federal government's handling of the probe into President John F. Kennedy's assassination, charges that it had encouraged witnesses to conceal the truth.

Garrison claimed yesterday that his own investigation had caught the "lie machine . . . not only by a revealing photograph but by a letter taken from its own records."

Garrison showed reporters a copy of a letter between two Warren Commission attorneys, Wesley J. Liebeler and Norman Redlich, written on July 22, 1964, nine months after Kennedy was shot to death in Dallas.

The district attorney's statement underline a portion concerning Deputy Sheriff Eddie Raymond Walthers. Redlich wrote Liebeler, who was to question Walthers, suggesting that he ask "exactly what he saw on the day of the assassination with reference to the bullet which he claims splattered on the edge of the curb on main street."

"One time Walthers was quoted as having found a bullet, but he seems to have backed away from this position," the letter said.

Garrison has photographs in which two men in business suits and a policeman in uniform are standing on the grass along the highway at the assassination site. He said one shows a man picking up a bullet, 10 minutes after the shooting.

"Of course," Garrison said yesterday, "Deputy Walthers denies that the bullet is a bullet. If he did not, he would not be deputy sheriff any longer."

Walthers yesterday repeated his denial that the object shown in the picture was a bullet.

Garrison said Walthers had been "reduced to hte embarrassment of having to pretend that the federal official in the photographs has, in the first photograph, reached down for a piece of the president's head—and, in the second photograph, is holding a piece of the president's head firmly clutched in his hand.

"What is important is that Deputy Sheriff Walthers initially said that he did find a bullet," Garrison added.

The Warren Commission concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone assassin.

"Many witnesses who have cooperated in the big lie by refusing to tell what they know about the truth have been given jobs in defense plants," Garrison claimed. "Our office has located at least one participant in the assassination of President Kennedy who now works at a military base for the United States Government.

Garrison displayed photographs he said showed how the sewer system under Dealy Plaza in Dallas was "likely" used as a firing point "by President Kennedy's assassins."

One photograph showed a Garrison investigator entering a grate which a spokesman said is located behind the picket fence atop the grass knoll in Dealy Plaza.

The second photograph showed a curbside sewer opening from the outside, indicating a man standing in it could not be seen.

The third photograph was described as taken from the inside of a sewer opening facing the north side of Elm Street, showing people in a convertible visible from the chest up.

Garrison said a small truck was parked "for an unusually long period" directly over a manhole leading into this sewer opening on the day of the assassination.

Garrison said last week one of the shots fired at Kennedy came from one of these sewer openings.